

## *For Your Information*

### *Weekly*

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

October 4, 2013

The City of Clewiston is proud of all our City Departments and the men and women that work for the City. This week, we are highlighting the Utilities Department and we would like to share a short op-ed that Barry Moline, Executive Director of the Florida Municipal Electric Association, wrote. The City of Clewiston is a member of FMEA.

“When you turn on the lights or plug in your favorite gadget, you may not be concerned about where the electricity comes from. But you might be surprised to learn that the type of electric utility you’re served by makes a big difference in the quality of life in your community.

In 34 communities in Florida and more than 2,000 communities around the country, “public power” systems take a leadership role in energy efficiency, delivering on a promise provide reliable electric power that is both affordable and environmentally responsible. Now is an ideal time to reflect on the contributions of home power utilities such as Clewiston Utilities.

Home power utilities are unique. They are locally owned and operated by the cities, towns and citizens they serve. Friendly local employees provide personal service and outstanding reliability. Not-for-profit rates and community investments help keep local money in the local community. And decisions are always made at public meetings where everyone has a voice.

Public power communities in Florida provide a strong focus on reliability and energy efficiency. High reliability comes naturally to local electric utilities because our crews live and work in our communities. When a storm comes through, we are on the scene quickly and stay until the job is done. In fact, public power utilities have the highest reliability rating of all electric utilities across in Florida.

In addition, public power utilities are strong supporters of conservation. Energy efficiency requires awareness and diligence – awareness of good ideas to conserve energy, and diligence to take action. For homeowners, this includes keeping the thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter, installing compact-fluorescent or LED lights, regularly replacing air conditioner filters, and weather-stripping leaky doors and windows.

Across the state, public power utilities are taking additional steps, providing energy audits to help homeowners identify efficiency improvements, developing programs to educate and motivate consumers to conserve, and promoting energy-efficient appliances. Please visit [homepoweradvantage.com](http://homepoweradvantage.com) to learn more about how your local utility gives YOU the Home Power Advantage.”

**Dates to Remember:**

October 17, 2013	Commission Workshop
October 21, 2013	Commission Meeting
Monday, November 11	City Offices closed – no residential garbage pickup

**Staff Reports****Community Development Director Reese reports:**

- Code Enforcement open eight (8) cases – overgrowth (3); signs (2); illegal construction (2) and chickens (1) and nine (9) cases were found to be in compliance and closed.
- DollarTree is working on their interior framing. The turn lane from US27 into the parking lot will be started next week.
- We have issued certificates of occupancy for two (2) three (3) bedroom/two (2) bath single-family homes located at 500 & 512 Orchard Park Drive. There are four (4) more almost ready for the final inspection.
- Two (2) of the four (4) new homes funded with CDBG funds have the underground plumbing inspection and should have foundations poured early next week. These two (2) homes are located at 414 East Sagamore and 416 East Ventura.

**Library Director Barrett reports:**

- Toddler Story Time at your library has grown. As of next week, we will be providing story time for approximately 90 preschool children from 4 different daycares in Clewiston. We currently entertain one group every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and another group each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM. This is for children 3 -5 years old. Mothers can also bring their preschoolers for a fun time of networking and learning for their children.
- We are in the process of organizing homework help or tutoring at your Library. Look out for further information.
- The children's Book Club is still going strong. We have approximately 12 regular attendees and they are having fun reading together and discussing books they have read. Join us on October 9, at 4:00 PM for a fun time.
- The Library was successful in procuring funding to the tune of \$50,000 from the SW Florida Community Foundation for offering classes and repurposing spaces in the library. Some classes that will be offered by mid-October are as follows:
  - a) Basic Computer classes – starting 10/21/13 at 5:00 PM
  - b) English as a Second Language- Starting 10/22/13 at 10:00 AM
  - c) Cake decorating – Starting 10/24/13 at 5:00 PM

**Police Chief Gutshall reports:**

- The past week has been heavily focused on preparation and testifying in the Torrecilla's Jewelry Store robbery from a couple years ago. All three defendants are on trial now, and the officers are spending long hours in court.
- Street level interdiction continues to yield high arrest numbers for possession of illegal drugs.
- Plans are being prepared now for the CHS Homecoming Parade scheduled for October 11.

- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
  - 993** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
  - 544** Complaints Investigated
  - 24** Arrests Made
  - 16** Traffic Citations
  - 60** Merchant Escorts
  - 19** Alarms Responded To
  - 66** Man Hours in Court
  - 10** Red Light Violations
  - 2** Traffic Accidents Investigated

**Public Works Director Scheffler reports:**

- Mosquito Control Activity: Two and a half days without rain and high temps and we had a brood hatch. The effects of a second hatching should be seen by end of the week. Trap counts jumped to over 400. An aerial treatment has been requested.
- Paving projects: North Berner street markings, October 7, 2013. Paving documents are ready and should be put out for bid in October.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff worked on removing the buildup on road shoulders this week. Removing the buildup allows the storm water to get off of the pavement and into the swale. The edge will heal up quickly. (2) We picked up equipment and surplus materials from the Community Build site on Tuesday. We will be planting some more trees around the new park when it is completed. These will be trees donated by the High School Ag class. (3) Ten yards of shell rock was delivered and spread on East Alverdez on Monday to repair several large wash-outs caused by all of the rain and traffic.

**Utilities Office Manager Davis reports:**

- The Electric, Water and Sewer crews helped with the construction of the Sweetest Town Playground last week and several employees stayed after hours to volunteer. Thanks to all those who helped.
- The Water/Sewer crew moved the water meter for DollarTree this week and have repaired several water breaks.
- The Electric crew repaired several lights at the football field last week.
- The Electric crew replaced the utility pole and street light on the corner of East Arcade and Pasadena this past week.
- Water well pump #4 has been pulled for repair this past week.
- We will be celebrating Public Power Week October 6-12, 2013. Florida Municipal Power Agency and Florida Municipal Electric Agency launched the Home Power Advantage [website](http://www.homepoweradvantage.com), which promotes the value of locally owned electric utilities. The site, [www.homepoweradvantage.com](http://www.homepoweradvantage.com), was created so that electric customers can learn more about where their power comes from and why it matters. It describes the home power advantage by focusing on public power's benefits, such as reliable electricity, personal service, community investment and public accountability.